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General Assembly

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A/CONF.167/PC/L.8
1 March 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE GLOBAL
CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES
Resumed first session
7-11 March 1994
Item 2 (a) of the provisional agenda*

PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/189 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

Organization and programme of work of the Conference

Note by the Secretariat

The present document contains the proposed timetable for the work of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

* A/CONF.167/PC.12.

PROPOSED TIMETABLE FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Sunday, 24 April

a.m. and p.m.		Pre-Conference consultations

First week (25-29 April)

Plenary

Monday, 25 April

p.m.	Item 1	Opening of the Conference
	Item 2	Election of the President
	Item 3	Adoption of the rules of procedure
	Item 4	Adoption of the agenda
	Item 5	Election of officers other than the President
	Item 6	Organization of work, including establishment of the Main Committee of the Conference
	Item 7 1/	Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
		(a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee

Tuesday, 26 April

a.m.	Item 8 2/	Opening of the general debate
p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)

1/ Item 7 (b), entitled "Report of the Credentials Committee" will be scheduled for consideration by plenary at a date to be determined.

2/ Beginning on Tuesday, 26 April and until Monday, 2 May, there will be a break in the general debate, in the morning, during which the plenary of the Conference will hear presentations by special guests on specific case-studies.

Wednesday, 27 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
6 p.m.	Closure of the list of speakers on item 8	
Thursday, 28 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
Friday, 29 April		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
Second week (2-6 May)		
Monday, 2 May		
a.m.	Item 8	General debate (continued)
p.m.	Item 8	General debate (conclusion)
Tuesday, 3 May		
a.m. and p.m.		To be determined
Wednesday, 4 May		
a.m. and p.m.		To be determined
Thursday, 5 May		
a.m. and p.m.	High-level segment	
Friday, 6 May		
a.m.	High-level segment	
Friday, 6 May		
p.m.	Item 10	Adoption of the report of the Conference

Closure of the Conference

Main Committee

First week (26-29 April)

Tuesday, 26 April

a.m.	Election of officers	
	Organization of work	
	Item 9	Consideration of plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, which includes meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity, and improving the quality of life for island people, as well as measures that will enable small island developing States to cope effectively, creatively and in a sustainable manner with environmental changes and to mitigate the impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources.
p.m.	Item 9	Continued

Wednesday, 27 April

a.m. and p.m.	Item 9	Continued

Thursday, 28 April

a.m. and p.m.	Item 9	Continued

Friday, 29 April

a.m. and p.m.	Item 9	Continued
6 p.m.	Deadline for submission of draft proposals under item 9	

Second week (2-4 May)

Monday, 2 May

a.m. and p.m.	Item 9	Continued

Tuesday, 3 May		
a.m. and p.m.	Item 9	Continued
Wednesday, 4 May		
a.m.	Item 9	Conclusion
p.m.	Action on all outstanding matters	
	Completion of the work of the Committee	

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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE GLOBAL
CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND
DEVELOPING STATES
Resumed first session
7-11 March 1994
Agenda item 4

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ON ITS RESUMED FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Takao Shibata (Japan)

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Preparatory Committee held its resumed first session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 11 March 1994. The Committee held ... meetings (16th to ... meetings) and several informal meetings.

2. The session was opened by the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee.

3. At the 16th meeting, on 7 March, the Coordinator for the Conference read out a message from the Secretary-General addressed to the Committee.

4. At the same meeting, the observer for the Caribbean Conservation Association, a non-governmental organization accredited to participate in the Conference and its preparatory process, made a statement.

5. At the 17th meeting, on 8 March, the Federal Minister for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany made a statement.

6. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Italy. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations made a statement.

7. Statements were made by the observers for Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Caribbean Conservation Association, Greenpeace International and Caribbean Policy Development Centre, non-governmental organizations accredited to participate in the Conference and its preparatory process.

B. Attendance

8. The following States were represented: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Cook Islands, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Holy See, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kiribati, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

9. The following associate members of the regional commissions were represented by observers: British Virgin Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Niue, Republic of Palau and United States Virgin Islands.

10. The following United Nations bodies and programmes were represented: United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

11. The Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific were represented.

12. The following specialized agencies were represented: International Labour Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Meteorological Organization and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

13. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, Caribbean Community, Commonwealth Secretariat, European Union, International Organization for Migration, Organization of African Unity and South Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

14. The African National Congress was represented by an observer.

15. The following non-governmental organizations accredited to participate in the Conference and its preparatory process were represented: Association of the Bar of the City of New York, Baha'i International Community, Caribbean Conservation Association, Caribbean Policy Development Centre, Centre for Resources Management and Environmental Studies, Environmental Defense Fund, Environment Liaison Centre International, European Centre for Studies Information and Education on Pacific Issues, Global Education Associates, Greenpeace International, International Coastal and Ocean Organization, International Institute for Sustainable Development, International Scientific Council for Island Development, International Synergy Institute, Island Resources Foundation, Marine Environmental Research Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Netherlands National Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, O Le Siosiomaga Society Inc., Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Pan-African Movement, Panos Institute, Society for International Development, University of the West Indies Centre for Environment and Development, Women and Fisheries Network, Women's Environment and Development Organization, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Wide Fund for Nature International and World Wildlife Fund.

C. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

16. At the 16th meeting, on 7 March, the Preparatory Committee adopted its provisional agenda and organization of work as contained in document A/CONF.167/PC/12 and Add.1 (see annex below).

II. PREPARATIONS FOR THE FIRST GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES ON THE BASIS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 47/189 AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT OTHER RELEVANT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

A. Organization and programme of work of the Conference

17. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 (a) at its 16th meeting, on 7 March. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the organization and programme of work of the Conference (A/CONF.167/PC/L.8).

B. Participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference and its preparatory process

18. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 (b) at its 16th meeting, on 7 March. The Committee had before it a note by the Secretariat on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process (A/CONF.167/PC/L.4/Add.1).

19. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the accreditation of the non-governmental organizations listed in document A/CONF.167/PC/L.4/Add.1 to participate in the Conference and its preparatory process.

C. Preparations by the host Government

20. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 (c) at its 16th meeting, on 7 March. The Minister for Environment, Housing and Lands of Barbados made an oral presentation.

D. Operations of the Voluntary Fund

21. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 2 (d) at its 16th meeting, on 7 March.

22. At the same meeting, the Coordinator for the Conference made a statement.

III. CONSIDERATION OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND THE UTILIZATION OF THEIR MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES, WHICH INCLUDES MEETING ESSENTIAL HUMAN NEEDS, MAINTAINING BIODIVERSITY AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ISLAND PEOPLE, AS WELL AS MEASURES THAT WILL ENABLE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES TO COPE EFFECTIVELY, CREATIVELY AND IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AND TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS ON AND REDUCE THE THREATS POSED TO MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES

A. Draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States

23. The Preparatory Committee considered agenda item 3 at its 16th meeting, on 7 March. It had before it the report of the Preparatory Committee on its organizational and first sessions (A/48/36).

24. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Australia and Papua New Guinea.

25. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Algeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Trinidad and Tobago (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Islands States (AOSIS)) and Greece (on behalf of the European Union).

B. Information on donor activities in support of sustainable development in small island developing States

26. At the 16th meeting, on 7 March, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on current donor activities in support of sustainable development in small island developing States (A/CONF.167/PC/13 and Add.1).

27. At the same meeting, the Coordinator for the Conference made a preliminary statement.

28. At the same meeting, the Deputy Coordinator for the Conference made a statement.

29. At the 17th meeting, on 8 March, the Committee had before it a document on current donor activities in support of sustainable development of small island developing States - inventory (A/CONF.167/PC/CRP.1).

Annex

AGENDA OF THE RESUMED FIRST SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Preparations for the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on the basis of General Assembly resolution 47/189 and taking into account other relevant General Assembly resolutions:

   (a) Organization and programme of work of the Conference;

   (b) Participation of non-governmental organizations in the Conference and its preparatory process;

   (c) Preparations by the host Government;

   (d) Operations of the Voluntary Fund.

3. Consideration of plans and programmes to support the sustainable development of small island developing States and the utilization of their marine and coastal resources, which includes meeting essential human needs, maintaining biodiversity and improving the quality of life for island people, as well as measures that will enable small island developing States to cope effectively, creatively and in a sustainable manner with environmental changes and to mitigate the impacts on and reduce the threats posed to marine and coastal resources:

   (a) Draft programme of action for the sustainable development of small island developing States;

   (b) Information on donor activities in support of sustainable development in small island developing States;

   (c) Consideration of proposals for a Barbados declaration on the sustainable development of small island developing States.

4. Adoption of the report of the Preparatory Committee on its resumed first session.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING
STATES
Resumed first session
7-11 March 1994
Agenda item 3 (c)

CONSIDERATION OF PLANS AND PROGRAMMES TO SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES AND THE UTILIZATION OF THEIR MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES, WHICH INCLUDES MEETING ESSENTIAL HUMAN NEEDS, MAINTAINING BIODIVERSITY, AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ISLAND PEOPLE, AS WELL AS MEASURES THAT WILL ENABLE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES TO COPE EFFECTIVELY, CREATIVELY AND IN A SUSTAINABLE MANNER WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGES AND TO MITIGATE THE IMPACTS ON AND REDUCE THE THREATS POSED TO MARINE AND COASTAL RESOURCES: CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS FOR A BARBADOS DECLARATION ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

THE BARBADOS DECLARATION

Draft text submitted by Barbados

(Elements for discussion)

In the wake of the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, human society is poised on the threshold of a new era of great promise which can best be fulfilled through new and innovative forms of partnership between and among peoples. Such new arrangements must find reflection in local communities which so profoundly shape peoples lives, in States which so poignantly influence their destinies, and in the relations between States which so importantly determine international action affecting the realization of peoples' aspirations for a "healthy and productive life in harmony with nature". Fulfilment requires transparency and good governance, full involvement of all major groups in society, especially women, youth, indigenous people, business and industry and non-governmental organizations.

The path to the new era must involve radically changed patterns of development. In this regard, many small island developing States have already undertaken efforts at the national and regional levels as part of the process towards sustainable development - that is, development which meets present needs without jeopardizing the welfare of future generations, development which does not undermine the environment on which all life depends.

However, small island States recognize that they cannot be "islands unto themselves". In this interdependent world based on a single interacting and interconnected ecosystem, action by them alone will not suffice. Many of the threats to the global environment, and hence to the survival of small island developing States, have their origin in the industrialized world. The international community has already acknowledged a responsibility for direct and indirect actions to facilitate the efforts of small island developing States and to minimize stress on their fragile ecosystems. This recognition and the need for cooperative action, for partnership, was a major outcome of, and point of departure at, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Small islands are home to some of the most important and diverse elements of the Earth's life support system. With the coming into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, small island States bear responsibility for approximately one fifth of the world's oceans and seas, containing some of the world's few remaining reserves of fish stocks. As a group, they contain a high proportion, relative to their area, of different species of flora and fauna, different ecosystems and a large variety of cultures. For example, the coral reef ecosystems, characteristic of most small islands, contain a wide array of bio-diverse resources and are important in sustaining the delicate balance of life on the planet. The natural beauty and serenity of island environments also provide for all peoples of the world some of the few remaining opportunities to experience our planet in its pristine state.

As was recognized at the Earth Summit, small islands are, however, among the most ecologically fragile and vulnerable ecosystems. Likewise, they are extremely economically vulnerable. Given their small size, there is usually a strong reliance on a few, if not only one, economic resource and heavy dependence on international trade without the means of influencing the terms of that trade. Economic vulnerability, in turn, constrains the ability of small island developing States to maintain and conserve the parts of the planet's life systems for which they are responsible. The financial, human and physical reserves of small island developing States are very limited. Their small size and relatively long distances from major centres of commerce mean that the cost of providing essential basic services such as shelter, health, education, transportation and communications are considerably higher in small island developing States than in larger countries. Small island developing States have little margin for error. They are characterized by a very high degree of stress on the environment, both from the pressures of economic and human development activity on limited land area and from limited capacity to absorb or to recover quickly from disasters such as typhoons, storm surges, floods, earthquakes and pollution, and even though small island developing States as a group have been among the least significant contributors, they are on the front line of the effects of global warming, climate change and sea-level rise. In a similar

vein, the culture of small island developing States, one of their distinct characteristics and very special contributions to humankind, is also now severely threatened.

Life on small island developing States is thus both an alluring experience and a profound challenge.

The Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States here in Barbados has provided the first opportunity to put into practice the agreements of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the specific context of small island developing States. The Conference has brought together representatives of ___ States Members of the United Nations, of ___ Non-Self-Governing Territories, of ___ regional and international organizations and of ___ non-governmental organizations. The Conference has evoked the commitment of all these groups to build a new and equitable partnership for the sustainable development of small island developing States as captured in the Programme of Action.

The Programme of Action adopted at the Conference recognized the need for small island developing States to increase their rate of economic activity in order to meet essential human needs and to improve the quality of life for island peoples. It also recognized that, increasingly, economic activities of small island developing States must be internally generated and therefore based on the careful management and rational utilization of their bio-diverse resources, their marine and coastal resources, and their cultural attributes. The Programme of Action is based on commitments and undertakings by the Governments of small island developing States, by the non-governmental organizations, including the private sector in small island developing States, and by the wider international community.

Small island developing States have committed themselves to ensure that social and economic activities of the public and private sectors are effected in a sustainable manner, to put in place mechanisms, including legislation, institutions and infrastructure, which will advance the process of sustainable development, and to provide information and create in their populations greater awareness of the importance and fragility of their ecosystems. They have agreed to strengthen communication and information exchange between and among themselves and to continue the building of capacity to assess and provide solutions to the unique problems of small island developing States.

[Commitment of non-governmental organizations]

The international community has declared its commitment to support and facilitate small island developing States in their quest for sustainable development. To this end, the international community has committed itself to provide new, additional and predictable financial and other resources necessary for the implementation of the Programme of Action; to enhance indigenous capacity through the promotion of greater access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies appropriate for the sustainable development of small island developing States; to support the establishment of adequate institutional mechanisms, particularly at the regional and international levels; to promote an economic and trading environment supportive of the sustainable

development of small island developing States; to facilitate the development of indicators which meaningfully characterize the vulnerabilities and peculiarities of small island developing States; and to mitigate sources of global environmental threats.

The Programme of Action which has been adopted, taken together with the commitments of Governments, non-governmental organizations and the international community as a whole, therefore represents a landmark in the further evolution of Agenda 21. This positive experience should be useful to the international community as it seeks progressively to effect the transition globally to sustainable development. The real test of shared commitment, however, will be in the effective and vigorous implementation of the Programme of Action.

The example of the Conference will therefore send a powerful message to the world's peoples on the untold possibilities of joint action undertaken with a sense of common purpose, and with the clear and simple objective of humankind embarking irrevocably on the journey to sustainable development.